

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 01519 210511Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 H-01 MC-02 AID-05 IGA-02
OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 L-03 EUR-12 /087 W
-----210655Z 037454 /22

R 201300Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1017
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T SANA 1519

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, YE
SUBJECT: MIGS FOR YEMEN

REFERENCE: SANA 1311 AND SANA 1315

BEGIN SUMMARY: THERE IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE MIG
DEAL MAY BE ON. WE SHOULD TRY TO AVERT IT. END SUMMARY.

1. AHMAD ABDU SAID, INFLUENTIAL MINISTER OF STATE, HAS TOLD
AMBASSADOR THAT YAR "CAN'T WAIT THREE TO FIVE YEARS" FOR
F-5'S. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 18 THAT THERE WAS
"IMMEDIATE PSYCHOLOGICAL NEED" IN YARG (AND PARTICULARLY
IN AIR FORCE) TO REPLACE AGING MIG-17'S. HE SAID HE SAW
NO RPT NO REASON WHY SUCH A DEAL WOULD AFFECT US-YEMENI
OR SAUDI-YEMENI RELATIONS.

2. SAID NEVER SAID THAT DEAL WAS ON, DELIVERIES SET.
HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO BE WEAVING RATIONALIZATION FOR
SUCH A DEAL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANA 01519 210511Z

3. WE HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY OTHER INDICATIONS --
FROM SAUDI SOURCES, SOVIETS, AND HIGH LEVEL YEMENIS --
THAT NEW AIRCRAFT ARE COMING.

4. WE HAVE NOT, SO FAR AS WE KNOW, DISCUSSED THIS
POSSIBILITY WITH SAUDI SIN KINGDOM OUTSIDE OF INTELLI-
GENCE CIRCLES. SIMILARLY, WE DON'T KNOW IF SAUDI

POLICY MAKERS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT WE INTEND TO POSTPONE FOR TIME BEING PROVISION OF P AND B DATA. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME VAGUE KNOWLEDGE HERE IN SANA AMONG BOTH SAUDIS AND YEMENIS THAT SALES TO YEMEN ARE BEING HELD UP. THIS IS BASED APPARENTLY ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS. WHAT WILL SAUDI REACTION BE IF THEY DECIDE THEY WANT TO AVERT MIG DEAL BUT THEN ARE TOLD OFFICIALLY THEY HAVE NO F-5'S OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO OFFER? WILL THEY BLAME US FOR WEAKENING EFFORT WHICH IS WELL BEGUN AT GREAT EXPENSE TO DISPLACE SOVIETS IN CRUCIAL SECURITY FIELD? WILL THEY ASK THEMSELVES FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW MUCH TO DEPEND ON US IN OTHER AREAS OF HORN OF AFRICA? YEMENIS WHO HAVE GONE ALONG WITH US WILL ASK MANY OF SAME QUESTIONS OF COURSE.

5. ONE THING SHOULD BE CLEAR. MIG'S MEAN SOVIET MILITARY MISSION GETS NEW LEASE ON LIFE. SAUDI SUPPLY OF US EQUIPMENT HAS ATTENUATED ACTIVITIES AND PRESTIGE OF 100-MAN SOVIET MILITARY MISSION AND PROMISES-- IN GROUND FORCES -- TO DISPLACE IT COMPLETELY. UNTIL NOW SAUDIS HAVE APPARENTLY OFFERED NOTHING TO DISPLACE SOVIETS IN YAR AIR FORCE. SO, SOVIET MECHANICS HELP MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT, SELECT TRAINEES FOR SOVIET UNION, DOE OUT SPARE PARTS, FRATERNIZE, CONDUCT LOCAL TRAINING. WITH MIG-21'S THIS MISSION WILL BE EXTENDED INDEFINITELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EXCELLENT POSITION TO CRITICIZE AND COMPLICATE SAUDI ROLE IN GROUND FORCES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANA 01519 210511Z

6. WE DON'T WANT PAINT TOO BLACK PICTURE OF MIG DELIVERIES HERE. SAUDI-YEMENI, AND TO SOME EXTENT SAUDI-US RELATIONS (WHERE YEMEN AND HORN ARE CONCERNED) ARE LIKELY TO BE STRAINED, BUT WE WILL ALL THREE RETAIN SOME COMMON INTERESTS AND PROGRAMS. AS LONG AS SAUDIS MAINTAIN AID AT PRESENT LEVELS SOVIETS WILL FIND LIMITS TO THEIR ABILITY WIELD INFLUENCE HERE. 7. BUT WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO AVERT MIG DELIVERIES. A POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS TROUBLE WITH THE SAUDIS EXISTS, AND AS LONG AS SOVIETS ARE IN MILITARY THEY WILL HAVE EXCELLENT POSITION TO USE TO INTERVENE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE OR TO CHALLENGE VARIETY OF YEMENI MOVES IN OTHER TIMES. WHY SHOULD WE LOWER OUR SIGNS AT THIS TIME FROM TARGET OF DISPLACING SOVIETS? POLICY IS PAYING OFF IN SPADES HERE, PROMISES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PDRY AND SOMALIA.

8. IN AVERTING DEAL, SAUDIS CAN DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN.

THEIR ECONOMIC AND OTHER MILITARY AID HERE IS MASSIVE. THUS, ALTHOUGH SAID INSISTS THAT NEED FOR NEW AIRCRAFT IS "IMMEDIATE" WE FEEL SURE THAT HAMDI WOULD DEFER ACCEPTING MIG'S THIS SUMMER IF HE HAD AGREEMENT ON FUTURE F-5 DELIVERIES. IF NECESSARY, THERE ARE NUMBER OF INTERIM STEPS THAT COULD BE DEVISED TO SPAN THE PERIOD OF PRODUCTION OF NEW F-5E'S. F-5A'S AND B'S MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO YEMEN BY SAUDIS, AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. SMALL SAUDI FIGHTER SUB-UNIT MIGHT BE DEPLOYED TO YEMEN FOR FAMILIARIZATION PURPOSES. RE-TRAINING OF YAR PILOTS WILL ALSO EAT UP TIME.

9. BOTTOM LINE IS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SAUDIS AND COORDINATE OUR APPROACHES. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH OTHER APPROACHES WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN SEPTTEL RE YEMENI ANXIETY VIS-A-VIS SAUDI INTENTIONS HERE.

SCOTES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SANA 01519 210511Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANA01519
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0559
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770437/aaaabgel.tel
Line Count: 139
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e70fb1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SANA 1311, 77 SANA 1315
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2747539
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIGS FOR YEMEN
TAGS: MASS, YE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e70fb1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009